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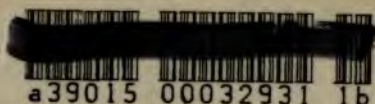
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MADAGASCAR
AND THE

UNITED STATES

BY
A FORMER RESIDENT OF THE ISLAND

NEW YORK

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Madagascar and the United States.

Charity, and especially National Charity, begins at home.

THE arrival in our country of the Malagassy envoys, accredited to the United States, as well as to Germany, France and England by the Queen of the Hovas, furnishes the Americans an opportunity to avoid the risk of some dangerous "entangling alliance," and the occasion to recover the Madagascar trade, which they nearly monopolized formerly with that of Zanzibar. Some newspapers have published, that the only purpose of the Hovas diplomatists, during their stay in America, would be to secure, through the assistance of their British secretary and manager of the Embassy, the support of the Washington Government against the alleged encroachments of France upon the territorial rights of Queen Ranavalô II. This is not the case, as is known by the American Consul at Tamatava, Mr. Robinson, who has arrived in the same steamer, with the Malagassy envoys.

The great question to be principally discussed will be that of the ratification of the commercial convention concluded by Mr. Robinson with the Hovas Government. With intelligent and patriotic wisdom, Mr. Robinson understood that the disagreements which had occurred between the Malagassys and the European colonists, offered a splendid opportunity for opening commercial relations between Madagascar and the United States, where capital could be raised and a Company formed in New York, like the ancient one of Providence and New England, having in view the exploitation of the immense resources of Madagascar, the African Cuba. The existence of the yet unratified treaty was utterly ignored ; but it will soon come out to light. The debating of such a question is much more proper and advantageous to Americans, than to allow themselves to be drawn into taking side for France or England in Madagascar.

Still, it is necessary, in order to somewhat enlighten the official and parliamentary debates, relative to the treaty ratification, that the country to which it refers shall be known, geographically and historically ; and this is our excuse for publishing the following few pages. We have, indeed, to fear that our political attitude

in regard to the present international troubles of the Hovas, shall be the price offered for mercantile advantages, which would drag us into difficulties or a lowering of American prestige, as it recently happened, relative to the Chilo-Peruvian imbroglio. The noble Malagassy envoys will certainly be guiltless of such a piece of cunning diplomacy. However, we cannot help reminding that they come to this country under the escort of an English secretary and cicerone, and of another Englishman, Mr. Proctor, the Madagascar Consul in London. These two gentlemen would have very little of the British blood in them, if they were quite ignorant of the traditional practices of English favorites or agents at the courts of semi-civilized nations ; the result of said practices being invariably the establishment of British exclusive domination in those countries.

Messrs. Proctor and Anthony Tacchi will act, of course, according to the dictations of their British ideas, just as the American Consul, Mr. Robinson, always acted like an American. We are sure of it, despite the sayings and the insinuations of the *Madagascar Times* and the London papers, which, in their glowing descriptions of the innumerable festivals offered in Great Britain to the Malagassy envoys, attempted to represent Mr. Robinson as an humble follower in the cortège of the mission, and as being devoted to the interests of the State Church, established in Madagascar by English missionaries. This base insinuation was undoubtedly due to the fact that our Consul maintains friendly relations with the British agents of the Malagassy envoys, exactly like the United States maintain their diplomatic intercourse with England, although the latter has just been so awkward and presumptuous as to ask for the extradition of Sheridan, which demand amounts to compelling America to take side in the Anglo-Irish quarrel.

The moral domination of the British is already established by the English over the Hovas tribes of Madagascar, and we may be asked to assist in pushing France entirely out of the island. With this Americans have nothing to do. It is here, at this very point, that "charity begins at home," and that we must think of our national interests exclusively, while respecting the acquired rights of France, which first colonized Madagascar, and those of England as shown by more modern treaties. There remains plenty room for us, political and commercial, in the great African

island. In our turn, we will bask in the sun of its tropical prosperity, provided we should steer clear from the quarrel of the English and French disputants, if we do not tread upon the historical and practical rights of either, and if we deal with the Hovas or other feudal tribes of Madagascar, only within the limits of the power left to each of them, by European conquest or by interne-cine wars.

I.

MADAGASCAR, GEOGRAPHICALLY AND COMMERCIALY.

From a mercantile standpoint, Madagascar offers still greater inducements to enterprise than Cuba, Borneo and Sumatra ; for it produces not only all the tropical fruits and plants of these marvellous islands, but also those of the temperate zone, which grow upon the great and elevated table lands in the interior of the country.

Madagascar is 960 miles long, from north to south, as the crow flies, and about 360 in width at the broadest part. It has a remarkably compact and regular outline ; for many hundred miles its eastern shore is almost a straight line, but on its north-western side it is indented by a number of deep land-locked gulfs, which include some of the finest harbors in the world. About a third of its interior to the north and east is occupied by an elevated mountainous region, raised from 3,000 to 5,000 feet above the sea, and consisting of primary rocks—granite, gneiss, and basalt—probably very ancient land and forming during the secondary geological epoch, an island much smaller than the Madagascar of to-day.

All around the island runs a girdle of dense forest, varying from ten to forty miles in width, and containing fine timber and valuable gums and other vegetable wealth—a paradise for botanists, where rare orchids, the graceful traveller's-tree, the delicate lattice-leaf plant, the gorgeous flamboyant, and many other elsewhere unknown forms of life abound, and where doubtless much still awaits fuller research.

While the flora of Madagascar is remarkably abundant, its fauna is strangely limited, and contains none of the various and

plentiful forms of mammalian life which make Southern and Central Africa the paradise of sportsmen. The ancient land of the island has preserved antique forms of life; many species of lemur make the forest resound with their cries; and these with the curious and highly specialized aye-aye, and peculiar species of viverridæ and insectivora, are probably "survivors" of an Old-World existence. There are no venomous reptiles all throughout the country, unless that name could be extended to the myriads of crocodiles which inhabit the rivers and their banks. The climate towards the western coast is very unhealthy, and both natives and Europeans suffer terribly from fever; but the interior and the east coast are healthy, and the heat is tempered by cool breezes from the mountains.

Cotton, tobacco, sugar, rice, indigo, cochenilla, cacao, manioc, jute, are produced plentifully as in all tropical countries. The forests team with the best and rarest kinds of wood used for manufacturing purposes, like the baobad, tamarind, screw-pine, tree-ferns, and various other species of hard woods which are susceptible of exquisite polish. The island abounds also in gold, copper, iron of excellent quality, and coal; but all these mines have hardly commenced to be worked, since the policy of the Hovas Government was yet lately opposed to their being put in operation.

These natural treasures have been left untouched by the natives, who live from hand to mouth, in laziness, relying upon the work performed by their slaves. This explains the facility wherewith the Hovas Government succeeded quite recently in arousing the hatred of the feudal population against M. Baudais, the French Consul at Tananarivo, whom they represented as claiming for the immediate and real abolition of slavery. The native inhabitants of Madagascar, according to all ethnographers and the latest essays of a physician of Queen Ranavaloa, published in the *New York Tribune*, may be divided into two distinct classes.

"The Hovas are of Malay origin, with yellow skins, long straight hair, flat faces, and profiles which distinguish the natives of the Malay Islands. The Hovas now occupy about one-fourth of the island, or at least have dominion over it. They are, as a race, somewhat endowed with commercial talent and energy, but are usually untrustworthy and vacillating, like the people of the

most hot countries. The remainder of the Malagassy tribes are of undoubted African origin, and, although less energetic, are much more trustworthy than the Hovas."

The population is diversely computed at from 3,500,000 to 5,000,000 inhabitants.

Even with an almost absence of roads in the interior, except others than cattle trails, and the unfrequency of steam communication with the outward world, the total estimate of the imports and exports of Madagascar, may be fairly put at over five million dollars. This figure is given by Mr. Chesson, honorable secretary of the Madagascar Committee in London, who adds: "The interests involved in that figure, are not trifling to the British merchants and manufacturers, who carry on a profitable trade with Madagascar." This is a sufficient explanation, apart of political motives, of the efforts which the British are very properly making, in order to establish their exclusive influence over the Hovas Government, and thus be better armed for preventing American, French or German merchants from successfully competing with them, in the race for the profits of the Madagascar trade, about to be so extensively developed.

II.

MADAGASCAR, HISTORICALLY.

A brief outline of Madagascar's history, condensed from all sources—British, French and German—plainly shows that the French were the first and only colonizers of the island, and that the Hovas, who came from Malaisia, steadily kept conquering some of the aborigine tribes. Hence, the present conflict raised by the Hovas, who claim the whole country, by right of a conquest not yet accomplished, and who are anxious to deprive the French of the districts freely given to the latter, and wherein the remnants of the Malagassy autonomy can yet be preserved under the protection of a European nation. That nation, which was never charged with selfishness with regard to her foreign and colonial policy, is so evidently willing to share with other people the advantages of colonization in Madagascar, that the French treaty signed in 1862, with Radama II, provides distinctly that all

nations shall enjoy the privileges of said treaty, merely upon filing a demand to that effect, and even without being compelled to sign any convention, in their own name.

Historians generally attribute the discovery of Madagascar to Tristan d'Acunha, and others to Fernando Suarez, about the year 1506. It is asserted by others that, in 1500, Paulmier de Gonneville, a French skipper from Normandy, landed in this island. At any rate, it is not disputed that, in 1612, Pronis established a settlement at Tholanger, which Flacourt fortified and named Fort Dauphin. This occurred in 1648, and the French devoted themselves to learning the language, and speedily they won the confidence of the Malagassy population. Unfortunately, the conduct of their officials counterbalanced the efforts made by Richelieu and Colbert, for the welfare of the French settlements, which were soon assaulted besides by the Hovas. These people from Malaisian origin had established themselves in the neighborhood of Madagascar. Thanks to a continuous stream of emigration from the Sunda straits, their original country, and to alliances cunningly prepared on the main land, the Hovas had remarkably increased in numbers and in power. They were already the terror of some of the most warlike aborigine tribes, and also of the French colonists, who finally were attacked, and had to defeat the Hovas, in 1721, at Antongil Bay.

It was thought, at first, that the Hovas power was destroyed forever. The principal Malagassy tribes, the Ankan-tars, Betsimitsaracks, Bethalemenes and Sakalavas offered their thanks to the French, for that act of justice; and the Antongil victory strengthened still more tightly the friendship between the natives and the French colonists. But, new recruits came to the Hovas from the Malay islands; they settled near Foulepointe, took the fort by surprise, and killed the French and the natives.

This occurred in 1754, and it marks the real beginning of the Hovas power. Taking advantage of their victory, they advanced into the interior of the island, and settled themselves, after having massacred the Malagassy inhabitants, upon the famous table land of Emirina, a central position from which they used to sally forth, to the conquest of some neighboring tribes.

Meanwhile, the Government of Versailles, under Louis XV and Louis XVI was satisfied, on account of its weakness, to maintain its flag floating over a few settlements. The first Republic



only had time to send to Madagascar, M. Lescalier, as a Commissioner. In 1796, Baron Bienowsky, betraying his duties as an official, revolted against the French Government, and was killed in his attempt to have himself proclaimed King of Madagascar.

In 1810, Mauritius island is conquered by the British over the French ; and, at the same time, Andrian-Ampousène lays the foundation of the Hovas Kingdom, since the French were no longer at hand to protest against that usurpation. The territory presently occupied by the Hovas, is about the same as that which was constituting the kingdom of Andrian-Ampousène ; but the Betsimitsaracks, the Ankantars, the Bethalemenes and especially the Sakalavas, still repulse energetically the Hovas domination, and decline to submit to it.

Soon after having taken possession of Mauritius, the British began their intrigues in Madagascar. The London *Contemporary Review*, admits that the Hovas "were enabled by friendship with England to subdue" certain native tribes. Meanwhile, Sir Robert Farquhart, Governor of Mauritius attempted, in 1816, to deny the French right to found settlements upon the main land. But, he was disavowed by his own government, which declared that the claims of France had been recognized by the Vienna treaty, and that she should be placed again in possession, as she was on January 1, 1792. The exploded intrigues of Sir Robert Farquhart were continued by James Hastie, a non-commissioned officer whom he sent to Madagascar, with secret orders. Radama I, under the advice of M. Hastie, proclaimed himself King of the whole island, and after having been assassinated, he was succeeded, in 1828, by his wife Ranavalô I. Then, the civilizing impetus which Radama I, inspired with the liberal ideas of the French Revolution, had given to Madagascar, was suddenly stopped. It is even supposed that Radama I, who had in him some Malagassy blood, was murdered by the Hovas noblemen, because they were anxious to keep the country in an uncivilized condition, in order to rule it more easily.

During the reign of Ranavalô I, the rights of France, which had never ceased to be asserted, as by the expedition of Admiral Mackau in 1818, and later on under Charles X, by another expedition which occupied Tamatava, Tintingue and Foulepointe, were again recognized, at least implicitly, by Great Britain. Some Hovas chieftains having revolted, in 1840, against the Queen, and

begged for French assistance, the sovereigns of the Sakalavas and Ankantars tribes took part in the general rebellion against the Hovas conquerors. They ceded to France, by a treaty signed in 1841, all the territory situated in the northern part of the island, along a line extending and including the bay of Diego Suarez. Earl Granville recently admitted that Lord Palmerston had recognized, in 1850, the validity of these treaties.

Moreover, far from entering any protest against that treaty, the British Government asked the Paris Cabinet to be allowed to join the French expedition sent to bombard Tamatava, as a punishment for French and English colonists murdered by the Hovas in 1845. The Government of Louis Philippe readily granted the request, and the flags of the *Conway* and the *Zélée* friendly floated side by side, while their guns popped at the Hovas' fortifications.

In 1861, Radama II succeeded his mother on the throne, and Madagascar was reopened to trade and to Christian teaching. Idolatry has almost entirely passed away from the central provinces; education and civilization have begun to make some advances. Fortunately, Radama II had been able to crush the rebellion started by Ramboasalam, who was supported by the oligarchic party of the Hovas. No internal revolution has broken since then in the Hovas kingdom, and the present Queen Ranavalao II quietly assumed the power, after having made a public profession of Christianity at her accession in 1868. She formerly attended the Roman church, as shown during the official ceremonies of the 15th of August, 1862; but, now, she is a Protestant, and the head of the State church. There are about sixty thousand Roman Catholics in Madagascar, according to the official records of catechumens, kept by the Roman priests and missionaries.

III.

THE MADAGASCAR QUESTION OF OUR DAYS.

The present Madagascar question with which we are connected, through the signing by our Consul, of a commercial convention, through his intervention relative to the landing of arms, and on account of the recent murder of two American citizens,



was recently opened and brought to a crisis by the British themselves. This is admitted by the London *Contemporary Review*, the principal advocate of the Anglo-Hovas cause, and which says :

“We—the English—are to a great extent pledged to give the Hovas Government some support by the words spoken by our Special Envoy to the Queen Ranavalo, last year. Vice-Admiral Gore-Jones then repeated the assurance of the understanding above mentioned (in regard to the independence of the island), and encouraged the Hovas Government to consolidate their authority on the west coast, and, in fact, his language stimulated them to take that action there which the French have made a pretext for their present interference.”

Here, we have the cat out of the bag, or as they say in the Latin language : *habemus confitentem reum!* The London *Contemporary Review* is, indeed, the organ of those religious and mercantile people who have formed the Madagascar Committee, and nearly dictated its future attitude to the British Government, with respect to Madagascar affairs.

As is shown in the former chapter, the island was quiet after the terrible murder of Radama II, in 1862, and the accession to the throne, of his widow, the present sovereign, Queen Ranavalo the second. In order to compensate foreign colonists for the non-execution of the treaty which had been concluded between her husband and the French agents, Lambert and Laborde, in 1862, she signed two other treaties, which are mentioned as follows in a communication addressed by an eminent specialist on colonial questions, to the editor of the *London Times*, December 27, 1882 :—

“As much misapprehension seems to exist with regard to the terms of these treaties, it may interest the public to know the wording of the clauses relating to the right of British and French subjects to purchase land, etc., in Madagascar.

“The treaty between England and Madagascar, dated Antananarivo, June 29th, 1865, and ratified at Antananarivo, July 5th, 1866, contains the following article :—

“ARTICLE 5.—British subjects shall be permitted in any lawful manner to purchase, rent, or lease land, houses, warehouses, and all other kinds of property within all parts of the dominions of Her Majesty the Queen of Madagascar. Leases, contracts of sale or purchase of houses and lands in Madagascar, and engage-

ments of laborers may be executed by deeds signed before the British Consul and the local authorities.'

"The treaty between France and Madagascar, signed at Tananarive, August 8th, 1868, contains the annexed clause:—

"ARTICLE 4.—Les Français à Madagascar jouiront d'une complète protection pour leurs personnes et leurs propriétés. Ils pourront, comme les sujets de la nation la plus favorisée et en se conformant aux lois et réglemens du pays, s'établir partout où ils le jugeront convenable, prendre à bail, acquérir toute espèce de biens immeubles, et se livrer à toutes les opérations commerciales et industrielles qui ne sont pas interdites par la législation intérieure. Les baux, les contrats de vente et d'achat, et les contrats d'engagement de travailleurs seront passés par acte authentique devant le Consul de France et les magistrats du pays.'

"From the foregoing the French Government would appear to be justified in demanding the fulfilment of this clause, the refusal of which has been one of the first causes of their misunderstanding with the Hovas Government.

"Notwithstanding these treaties, the Hovas have discouraged the settlement of foreigners, and so long as they are allowed to limit the tenure of land to short leases, that fine and rich island must remain the unproductive place it always has been under their rule, and the poor unfortunate tribes inhabiting the whole of the east coast, whom they have conquered, may look in vain for the introduction of any industry that might give them the means of alleviating their miserable plight."

Inasmuch as that treaty did not deny the antiquated rights of France to absolute possession of other parts of the island, and, besides, conceded to her, as well as to England, some tenure privileges, the British missionaries and mercantile agents were not satisfied. They wanted to make up, in Madagascar, for the decaying prosperity of Mauritius, and so manœuvred that, in 1881, they succeeded in having Admiral Gore-Jones sent upon the mischievous mission which has disturbed the relations of the Hovas Government with France, whose claims were then being discussed in a peaceful spirit. The English expected, and are still expecting, that the Hovas, relying upon their secret but very effectual assistance, will drive the French out of the island, which would become an African insular India for England.

Americans know too well what that would mean for them :

the exclusive monopoly of the Madagascar trade by the British ; and, as in the olden times of the East India Company, no other vessel but those flying the English flag allowed to carry on a traffic on the coasts of the island. This is why they heard with deep satisfaction that the United States Consul at Tamatava had thought of insuring the interests of his country, by the conclusion of a commercial convention with the Hovas Government. Such an intelligent conduct on the part of Mr. Robinson, is the best answer he can make to the extreme Anglophobists, who were insinuating that he ought to have kept in Madagascar the balance of power between the French and the English, and not allowed himself to act somewhat roughly in the matter of the *Stillman B. Allen*.

That American vessel had on board a cargo of arms for the Hovas Government, and the British agent having wrongly asserted that the Commandant of the French man-of-war at Tamatava, would oppose the landing of these arms, Mr. Robinson trusted him too much, and uselessly warned the French Commandant and the Consul that the landing should take place anyhow ; which was duly effected. Our representative at Tamatava was perfectly justified in taking all the measures he considered necessary to protect the rights of an American vessel. But since then, experience has taught him that it is not safe, in Madagascar affairs, to have too great a confidence in the sayings of the British agents or the Hovas officials. He has later on, probably shown them his disgust at his having been deceived by their reports, in regard to the case of the *Stillman B. Allen* ; for English papers have frequently represented with sneers, our Consul, Mr. Robinson as occupying an undignified position in the suite of the Malagassy envoys and their English cicerones, "managers and conductors of the embassy," as they are named in the London journals.

The murder, in last September, of two Americans and one Frenchman, a friend of theirs, affords one more evidence of the well known spirit displayed by Britishers, in all colonial matters. They so well imagine that they are the only ones allowed to roam about in colonies, that the *London Times*, on hearing of the murders, spoke of them as having been committed "on two Englishmen." This was, after all, an unconscious admission of the dangers which were certainly to be brought upon foreigners, in Madagascar, through the recent manœuvres of Vice-Admiral Gore-Jones, the Special Envoy, who incited the Hovas Government to

re-open, "with the support of English friendship." its former assaults upon the historical and undenied rights of France, over some parts of Madagascar.

The knot of the Madagascar question is to be found in the fact that the British desire that Queen Ranavallo II should become, as they say in their organs, "the *de facto*, as she is already the *de jure* sovereign of the whole island." This is an unguarded admission on the part of the English, that the Hovas Government does not rule over the entire country, and they would like to draw the United States into a recognition of an unexisting sovereignty. Such a recognition would considerably help the British, and increase their commercial facilities, since they are the only and real power behind the throne at the Court of Tananarivo.

IV.

CONCLUSION.

The American Government will not allow itself to be dragged into a quarrel with France for the sake of assisting the Hovas, who are mere puppets into British hands, and help in depriving the French from their secular and often-recognized rights in Madagascar. The cause of progress and civilization could not be benefitted in any way by such an ungrateful and injudicious conduct on our part towards ancient allies, who offer to us the same civil and mercantile privileges as those enjoyed by their own colonists in the African island.

At the very time when we lament the evils brought upon Ireland by the oppression of British landlords and of the State Church, we cannot afford to grant any help, even morally, to the expansion of the same evils in Madagascar. Religious interests have been put there in jeopardy, by the development of the Hovas sovereignty, and American missionaries cannot work freely in that African field, monopolized by the Mopstandrina or Bishops, who are mere State officials, appointed by the Government. The Prime Minister is the supreme head of the Church; not only has he made himself independent of the Protestant missionaries, but he has reduced them to the position of simple servants and

tools of the State Church, and their subserviency to him is the condition not only of their success, but of their very existence in the island. The Protestant missionary, Rev. Louis Street, complaining of this proceeding, writes : "By this arbitrary act, the Prime Minister has trenched on the rights of the London Missionary Society, and taken spiritual affairs entirely into his own hand. The State Church in Madagascar is in reality less tolerant than that of Turkey. Our whole teaching is so entirely under Government control that I cannot understand anybody having the courage to deny it. We are expected to preach not the gospel after the New Testament, but the gospel after the Prime Minister," etc. Such a shameful condition of affairs, would certainly be aggravated, as the Hovas Government would become more powerful. Americans, either Protestants and Catholics, must feel little disposed to work for the political and unjust aggrandizement of a Government who has made the Church its servant, and who would not hesitate in certain emergencies and, despite all treaties to the contrary, to preclude American colonists and missionaries from the exercise of their religious rites.

The cause of human liberty, temperance and morality could not gain anything at the establishment of the Hovas' power over the other tribes. It is known that the principal wealth of the Hovas resides in the number of their slaves ; and their greater grievance against the French Consul was, it will be remembered, based upon the rumor adroitly spread by the Queen's Government that the French claimed not only the one half of the island, but also the immediate emancipation of slaves.

The Hovas stick to their slavery system, as well as to their rum, although they more cordially acknowledge the latter vice. As an answer to their English selfish admirers and supporters, who declared that the virtuous Government of Queen Ranavolo II, had frowned upon the importation of rum, and thus sacrificed to the cause of morality a large portion of its revenues, let us only quote the words of His Excellency Ravoninahitienfarivo, one of the ambassadors coming to America. Answering to a London deputation, he said :

"We are grieved to inform you that imports of rum are, apparently on the increase. Last year there were over 9,500 barrels brought in and sold at 6d. a pint. And yet, as has just been said, our Government has no pleasure in this ; we wish to

prohibit the sale, but it is the foreigners who push in the trade and the treaties, called treaties of friendship, support them in their doings."

These are noble sentiments, which we hope to find embodied in the treaty about to be signed by President Arthur, provided it protects sufficiently American interests in Madagascar, without entangling the United States in any quarrel with France, or any other country enjoying rights already recognized in the island.

But we are afraid that the Queen's envoy, while speaking as above, has merely given one more instance of the untrustworthiness of the Hovas, mentioned by the *New York Tribune's* correspondent. Is it true or not, that six or seven years ago, the merchants and foreign Consuls at Tamatava, petitioned Queen Ranavalona to take steps to arrest the wholesale introduction of spirits, which was effecting the destruction of her people?

However smart a diplomatist the First Hovas Envoy may be, he will not deny the truth of the above fact. He knows that none of the governments with whom the treaties have been made, would have refused an application of the Hovas Government for power to levy such import duty on spirits, as would increase the sale price so as to put them out of the reach of the great bulk of the natives.

Meanwhile, and despite this little episode showing that Malagassy diplomatists are liable to distort truth and facts, like their European confreres, when they consider it useful to their own interests, it will be a duty, and certainly a pleasure, to all Americans to tender the Malagassy envoys a warm and cordial reception. The Hovas ambassadors, who have been purposely wined and dined in England, more than to their hearts' content, will so much more appreciate a welcome from the American nation, because they must already be convinced that, in greeting them, the people of the United States entertain no inward selfish scheme.

THE MADAGASCAR TREATY.

The Madagascar treaty, about to be signed by President Arthur and the Hovas envoys, is published almost in its entirety by the ever enterprising *New York Herald*, just at the moment

this pamphlet is going to press. The perusal of the synopsis of the treaty, far from altering any of our observations, confirms them altogether, and was a stronger inducement to lay before the readers, mindful of American interests, this short and impartial sketch of the Madagascar question.

The press has not yet had time to fully discuss, editorially, the projected treaty. The *Herald* writes about it a few lines, in a jocose manner, as if it was a too small matter for that journalistic giant. The well-known anglophil, *Mail and Express*, does not want to see that the diplomatic "instrument," just born to light, is somewhat dangerous to America, while highly favorable to Great Britain, though indirectly but surely. The *Commercial Advertiser* is not opposed to understanding this side of the question, but the veteran of the metropolitan press is satisfied with saying :

"The Madagascar Treaty was first brought to the public's attention by the *Commercial Advertiser*, last January, in mentioning the fact that the Malagassy envoys were sent to this country to secure the ratification of a commercial treaty, instead of begging the support of the United States in their quarrel with France, as seemed to be imagined in some quarters. Though the treaty has some good features it might have been made more advantageous to us. For example, and only to mention a single article, why is it that if on the one hand we are allowed to land and store coal for our steamers, we are forbidden to work the coal mines of Madagascar or to export the native coal? The same prohibition is applied to us in regard to timber, which is the great staple of the island, and which we are expressly forbidden to export."

It might have been added that the numerous English residents at Madagascar will be allowed to work the coal and other mines of the country, and to export coal and timber, under the pretext that those articles are destined to the neighboring island of Mauritius, carrying with Madagascar, a so called "coast trade," left untouched by treaties. These mercantile regulations and others obnoxious to American commerce, will undoubtedly be easily adjusted afterwards.

But political errors of an international character are not so easily remedied. Thus, it will be wise for Americans, before the treaty is "perfected" by the necessary signatures, to ask themselves whether the second article of the diplomatic "instrument"

